

## **REMARKS**

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

### **I. Status of the Claims**

Claims 1-3, 5, 6 and 8-18 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 5 and 6 have been amended and the amendments do not add new matter.

### **II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**

Claims 1-3, 5, 6 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,407,295 to Kuhl. The Examiner states that Kuhl discloses telescoping tubular members having press applying and press receiving surfaces disposed in a rotational relationship. Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejection by stating that Kuhl does not disclose all the elements of the claimed invention.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 5 and 6, as amended, are not anticipated by Kuhl. Claims 1, 5 and 6 have been amended to recite the structure that both the first and second tubular members have a “cross section ... in the shape of an involute curve.” Kuhl is in contrast to the claimed structure. Kuhl’s “ascending wedge-shaped surfaces 7, 8 follow the course of a logarithmic curve” and Kuhl specifically states that “the special feature represented by the uniform gradient of a logarithmic spiral, [allow] the wedge-shaped surfaces 7 and 8 contact immediately over their entire surfaces.” Kuhl, column 6, lines 48-52 and column 7, lines 3-6. Thus, Kuhl does not teach or suggest shaping the tubular member to have a cross section of an involute curve. Additionally, claims 2, 3 and 8-10 all depend from claim 1 and

define over the prior art based on their own recital and their dependency from the independent claim. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the above rejection be withdrawn.

### **III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

Claims 11-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuhl, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,003,328 to Gaynor. The Examiner states that Kuhl teaches or discloses the entire invention except a tripod and that Gaynor teaches a tripod. Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejection by stating that Kuhl and Gaynor, alone or in combination, do not teach or disclose all of the claimed features of the present invention.

Claims 11-18 depend from independent claims 1, 5 and 6 and Applicant respectfully states that the arguments above, as they pertain to Kuhl are applicable in traversing the present rejection. Additionally, Gaynor does not provide the additional teachings or suggestions necessary to bridge the gap between Kuhl and claims 1, 5 and 6 of the present invention. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the above rejection be withdrawn.

### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the claims are in condition for allowance and it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louis J. DeLuiddice", written over a horizontal line.

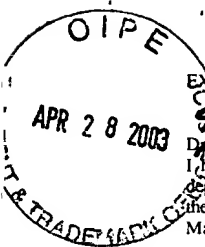
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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket No: 9450/OK689-US0

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: Koichiro NAKATANI

Serial No. 09/830,048

Art Unit: 3671

Confirmation No.: 9436

Filed: April 19, 2001

Examiner: Gary S. HARTMANN

For: **TELESCOPIC UNIT AND TRIPOD****MARK-UP FOR RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

April 28, 2003

Hon. Commissioner of  
Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please replace claims 1, 5 and 6 with the following amended claims 1, 5 and 6.

1. (Twice Amended) A telescopic unit including:

a first tubular member whose cross section is in the shape of an involute curve;

and

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a second tubular member whose cross section is in the shape of an involute curve, which is inserted in said first tubular member so as to be capable of rotating in the circumferential directions and enabling the adjustment of the distance by which the second tubular member projects from the first tubular member; wherein:

one or more press receiving surface portions are formed on the inner cylindrical surface of the first tubular member, said press receiving surface portions having a cross section which has an arc-shaped surface such that the center axis of the arc extends in parallel with the center axis of said first tubular member;

one or more press applying surface portions are formed on the outer cylindrical surface of the second tubular member, said press applying surface portions having a cross section which has an arc-shaped surface such that the center axis of the arc extends in parallel with the center axis of said second tubular member;

rotation of the second tubular member in one direction circumferentially relative to the first tubular member causes given locations of the press applying surface portions to be pressed against the press receiving surface portions, thereby securing the second tubular member to the first tubular member;

rotation of the second tubular member in the other direction circumferentially relative to the first tubular member releases the press applying surface portions and the press receiving surface portions from the press-contact with each other so that the distance by which the second tubular member projects from the first tubular member can be adjusted; and

rotation of the second tubular member in the other direction is limited so as to prevent the given locations of the press applying surface portions to be pressed against the press receiving surface portions.

5. (Twice Amended) A telescopic unit including:

a first tubular member whose cross section is in the shape of an involute curve [or a similarly shaped curve]; and

a second tubular member which is inserted in the first tubular member so as to be capable of rotating in the circumferential directions and enabling the adjustment of the distance by which the second tubular member projects from the first tubular member and has a cross section that is in the shape of an involute curve [or a similarly shaped curve] and corresponds to the cross section of the first tubular member; wherein:

rotation of the second tubular member in one direction circumferentially relative to the first tubular member causes the outer surface of said second tubular member to be pressed against the inner surface of the first tubular member, thereby securing the second tubular member to the first tubular member; and

rotation of the second tubular member in the other direction circumferentially relative to the first tubular member releases the outer surface of the second tubular member and the inner surface of the first tubular member from the press-contact with each other so that the distance by which the second tubular member projects from the first tubular member can be adjusted.

6. (Twice Amended) A telescopic unit including:

a first tubular member whose cross section has a shape comprised of a combination of identical parts of [either] an involute curve [or a similarly shaped curve]; and

a second tubular member which is inserted in the first tubular member so as to be capable of rotating in the circumferential directions and enabling the adjustment of the distance by which the second tubular member projects from the first tubular member and has a cross

section whose shape corresponds to that of the first tubular member and is comprised of a combination of identical parts of [either] an involute curve [or a similarly shaped curve]; wherein:

rotation of the second tubular member in one direction circumferentially relative to the first tubular member causes the outer surface of said second tubular member to be pressed against the inner surface of the first tubular member, thereby securing the second tubular member to the first tubular member; and

rotation of the second tubular member in the other direction circumferentially relative to the first tubular member releases the outer surface of the second tubular member and the inner surface of the first tubular member from the press-contact with each other so that the distance by which the second tubular member projects from the first tubular member can be adjusted.

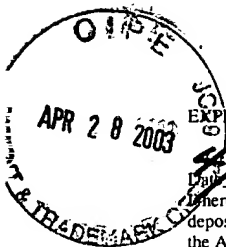
Respectfully submitted,



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Examiner: Gary S. HARTMANN

For: **TELESCOPIC UNIT AND TRIPOD**

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PENDING CLAIMS AS OF APRIL 28, 2003

1. (Twice Amended) A telescopic unit including:

a first tubular member whose cross section is in the shape of an involute curve; and

a second tubular member whose cross section is in the shape of an involute curve, which is inserted in said first tubular member so as to be capable of rotating in the circumferential directions and enabling the adjustment of the distance by which the second tubular member projects from the first tubular member; wherein:



one or more press receiving surface portions are formed on the inner cylindrical surface of the first tubular member, said press receiving surface portions having a cross section which has an arc-shaped surface such that the center axis of the arc extends in parallel with the center axis of said first tubular member;

one or more press applying surface portions are formed on the outer cylindrical surface of the second tubular member, said press applying surface portions having a cross section which has an arc-shaped surface such that the center axis of the arc extends in parallel with the center axis of said second tubular member;

rotation of the second tubular member in one direction circumferentially relative to the first tubular member causes given locations of the press applying surface portions to be pressed against the press receiving surface portions, thereby securing the second tubular member to the first tubular member;

rotation of the second tubular member in the other direction circumferentially relative to the first tubular member releases the press applying surface portions and the press receiving surface portions from the press-contact with each other so that the distance by which the second tubular member projects from the first tubular member can be adjusted; and

rotation of the second tubular member in the other direction is limited so as to prevent the given locations of the press applying surface portions to be pressed against the press receiving surface portions.

2. A telescopic unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

a plural number of press receiving surface portions are formed on the inner surface of the first tubular member so that the press receiving surface portions are arranged in the circumferential direction with a distance between each press receiving surface portion and its adjacent press receiving surface portion; and

a plural number of press applying surface portions are formed on the outer surface of the second tubular member so that the press applying surface portions are arranged in the circumferential direction at locations respectively corresponding to said press receiving surface portions, with a distance between each press applying surface portion and its adjacent press applying surface portion.

3. A telescopic unit as claimed in claim 2, wherein:

a receiving step portion is formed between each press receiving surface portion and its adjacent press receiving surface portion of the first tubular member; and

a catching step portion that is adapted to catch the corresponding receiving step portion when the second tubular member is rotated circumferentially in the aforementioned other direction relative to the first tubular member is formed between each press applying surface portion and its adjacent press applying surface portion of the second tubular member.

5. (Twice Amended) A telescopic unit including:

a first tubular member whose cross section is in the shape of an involute curve; and

a second tubular member which is inserted in the first tubular member so as to be capable of rotating in the circumferential directions and enabling the adjustment of the distance by which the second tubular member projects from the first tubular member and has a cross section that is in the shape of an involute curve and corresponds to the cross section of the first tubular member; wherein:

rotation of the second tubular member in one direction circumferentially relative to the first tubular member causes the outer surface of said second tubular member to be pressed against the inner surface of the first tubular member, thereby securing the second tubular member to the first tubular member; and

rotation of the second tubular member in the other direction circumferentially relative to the first tubular member releases the outer surface of the second tubular member and the inner surface of the first tubular member from the press-contact with each other so that the distance by which the second tubular member projects from the first tubular member can be adjusted.

6. (Twice Amended) A telescopic unit including:

a first tubular member whose cross section has a shape comprised of a combination of identical parts of an involute curve; and

a second tubular member which is inserted in the first tubular member so as to be capable of rotating in the circumferential directions and enabling the adjustment of the distance by which the second tubular member projects from the first tubular member and has a cross section whose shape corresponds to that of the first tubular member and is comprised of a combination of identical parts of an involute curve; wherein:

rotation of the second tubular member in one direction circumferentially relative to the first tubular member causes the outer surface of said second tubular member to be pressed against the inner surface of the first tubular member, thereby securing the second tubular member to the first tubular member; and

rotation of the second tubular member in the other direction circumferentially relative to the first tubular member releases the outer surface of the second tubular member and the inner surface of the first tubular member from the press-contact with each other so that the distance by which the second tubular member projects from the first tubular member can be adjusted.

8. A telescopic unit, according to claim 1, further comprising:

the first tubular member is provided with a receiving member which is snugly fitted in the bottom of the first tubular member and has a cross section having a shape similar to that of the first tubular base member; and

the second tubular member is provided with a catching member which is snugly fitted around the outer surface of the upper end of the second tubular member, has a cross section having a shape similar to that of the second tubular member, and is adapted to catch said receiving member when the second tubular member projects to its fullest extent.

9. A telescopic unit, according to claim 2, further comprising:

the first tubular member is provided with a receiving member which is snugly fitted in the bottom of the first tubular member and has a cross section having a shape similar to that of the first tubular base member; and

the second tubular member is provided with a catching member which is snugly fitted around the outer surface of the upper end of the second tubular member, has a cross section having a shape similar to that of the second tubular member, and is adapted to catch said receiving member when the second tubular member projects to its fullest extent.

10. A telescopic unit, according to claim 3, further comprising:

the first tubular member is provided with a receiving member which is snugly fitted in the bottom of the first tubular member and has a cross section having a shape similar to that of the first tubular base member; and

the second tubular member is provided with a catching member which is snugly fitted around the outer surface of the upper end of the second tubular member, has a cross section having a shape similar to that of the second tubular member, and is adapted to catch said receiving member when the second tubular member projects to its fullest extent.

11. A telescopic unit, according to claim 1, further comprising:

a tripod;

said tripod including a base;

said base including a plurality of leg attachments; and

said telescopic units respectively attached to each said leg attachments.

12. A telescopic unit, according to claim 2, further comprising:

a tripod;

said tripod including a base;

said base including a plurality of leg attachments; and  
said telescopic units respectively attached to each said leg attachments.

13. A telescopic unit, according to claim 3, further comprising:  
a tripod;  
said tripod including a base;  
said base including a plurality of leg attachments; and  
said telescopic units respectively attached to each said leg attachments.

14. A telescopic unit, according to claim 5, further comprising:  
a tripod;  
said tripod including a base;  
said base including a plurality of leg attachments; and  
said telescopic units respectively attached to each said leg attachments.

15. A telescopic unit, according to claim 6, further comprising:  
a tripod;  
said tripod including a base;  
said base including a plurality of leg attachments; and  
said telescopic units respectively attached to each said leg attachments.

16. A telescopic unit, according to claim 8, further comprising:  
a tripod;

said tripod including a base;  
said base including a plurality of leg attachments; and  
said telescopic units respectively attached to each said leg attachments.

17. A telescopic unit, according to claim 9, further comprising:  
a tripod;  
said tripod including a base;  
said base including a plurality of leg attachments; and  
said telescopic units respectively attached to each said leg attachments.

18. A telescopic unit, according to claim 10, further comprising:  
a tripod;  
said tripod including a base;  
said base including a plurality of leg attachments; and  
said telescopic units respectively attached to each said leg attachments.